

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

storing membership data at a client having a client identification, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receiving a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers; ~~and~~

updating the membership data at the client; and  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the membership data comprises:

examining the first expiration indicator to determine if membership in the first group has expired; and

deleting the first expiration indicator and the first group identifier in response to a determination that membership in the first group has expired.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of group identifiers includes a second group identifier associated with a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and

wherein updating the membership data comprises:  
receiving the group membership file at the client;  
comparing ~~te~~ said member identifier to the client identification; and

storing the second group identifier and the second expiration indicator at the client in response to said member identifier matching the client identification.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method comprising:

storing membership data at a client having a client identification, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receiving a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a

corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers;

updating the membership data at the client;

wherein the group membership file includes the first group identifier and two or more member identifiers associated with the first group identifier, and wherein updating the membership data comprises:

comparing each of said member identifiers to the client identification; and

deleting the first group identifier and the first expiration indicator in response to the client identification matching none of said member identifiers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method comprising:

storing membership data at a client having a client identification, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receiving a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers;

updating the membership data at the client; and  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a time.

7. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method comprising:

storing membership data at a client having a client identification, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receiving a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers;

updating the membership data at the client;

further comprising:

transmitting a message including a payload and a transmitted group identifier;

receiving the message at the client; and  
extracting the payload from the message in response to the  
first group identifier matching the transmitted group  
identifier.

8. (Currently amended) An article comprising:  
a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable  
instructions, the instructions causing a machine having a client  
identification to:

store membership data, said membership data including a  
first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a  
first expiration indicator;

receive a group membership file from a host, said group  
membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each  
group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a  
corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member  
identifiers; and

update the membership data; and

wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The article of claim 8,~~ An article  
comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine having a client identification to:

store membership data, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receive a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers;

update the membership data;

wherein the instructions causing the machine to update the membership data include instructions causing the machine to:

examine the first expiration indicator to determine if membership in the first group has expired; and

delete the first expiration indicator and the first group identifier in response to a determination that membership in the first group has expired.

10. (Previously presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the plurality of group identifiers includes a second group

identifier associated with a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and

wherein the instructions causing the machine to update the membership data include instructions causing the machine to:

compare said member identifier to the client identification; and

store the second group identifier and the second expiration indicator at the client in response to said member identifier matching the client identification.

11. (Previously presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the group membership file includes the first group identifier and two or more member identifiers associated with the first group identifier,

and wherein the instructions causing the machine to update the membership data include instructions causing the machine to:

compare each of said member identifiers to the client identification; and

delete the first group identifier and the first expiration indicator in response to the client identification not matching none of said member identifiers.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) ~~The article of claim 8,~~ An article comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine having a client identification to:

store membership data, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receive a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers; and

update the membership data; and

wherein the expiration indicator comprises a time.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The article of claim 8,~~ An article comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine having a client identification to:



store membership data, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receive a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers; and

update the membership data;

further comprising instructions causing the machine to:

receive a message including a payload and a transmitted group identifier; and

extract the payload from the message in response to the first group identifier matching the transmitted group identifier.

15. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a receiver to receive messages and a group membership file including a plurality of membership records, each membership record including a member identifier associated with a group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups and a corresponding expiration indicator;

a memory to store an apparatus identification;

a membership file to store a first group identifier associated with a first group, the apparatus identification and an associated first expiration indicator;

a clock to output a current time; and

a receiver controller coupled to the receiver, the memory, the membership file, and the clock, said receiver controller operative to update the membership file in response to one of the group membership file and the current time.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of membership record includes a membership record including a second group identifier associated with a second group, a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and

wherein the receiver is operative to compare the apparatus identification to the member identifier in the second membership record and to store the second group identifier and the second expiration identifier in the membership file in response to the member identifier matching the apparatus identification.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of membership record includes a membership record including a second group

identifier associated with a second group, a member identifier  
and a second expiration indicator,

wherein the receiver is operative to compare the apparatus  
identification to the member identifier in the second membership  
record and to store the second group identifier and the second  
expiration identifier in the membership file in response to the  
member identifier matching the apparatus identification; and

wherein the receiver controller is operative to compare  
the first expiration indicator to the current time and to delete  
the first group identifier and the first expiration indicator in  
response to the first expiration indicator exceeding or matching  
the current time.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 15,~~ An  
apparatus comprising:

a receiver to receive messages and a group membership  
file including a plurality of membership records, each  
membership record including a member identifier associated with  
a group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups  
and a corresponding expiration indicator;

a memory to store an apparatus identification;

a membership file to store a first group identifier  
associated with a first group, the apparatus identification and  
an associated first expiration indicator;

a clock to output a current time;

a receiver controller coupled to the receiver, the memory,  
the membership file, and the clock, said receiver controller  
operative to update the membership file in response to one of  
the group membership file and the current time; and

wherein a message includes a transmitted group identifier  
and a payload, and wherein the receiver controller is operative  
to extract the payload in response to the transmitted group  
identifier matching the first group identifier.

19. (Currently amended) A system host comprising:

a memory to store a group membership file including data  
indicative of group memberships;

a group generator to generate membership records in a group  
membership file, a each membership record including a member  
identifier associated with a group identifier corresponding to  
one of a plurality of groups and a corresponding expiration  
indicator; [[and]]

a group controller to update the group membership file; and  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The system host of claim 19, A~~  
system host comprising:

a memory to store a group membership file including data  
indicative of group memberships;

a group generator to generate membership records in a group  
membership file, a each membership record including a member  
identifier associated with a group identifier corresponding to  
one of a plurality of groups and a corresponding expiration  
indicator;

a group controller to update the group membership file;  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date; and  
~~further comprising~~ a clock to output a current time, and  
wherein the group controller is operative to compare the  
expiration indicator to the current time and to delete the  
membership record in response to the expiration indicator  
exceeding or matching the current time.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) ~~The system host of claim 19, A~~  
system host comprising:

a memory to store a group membership file including data indicative of group memberships;

a group generator to generate membership records in a group membership file, a each membership record including a member identifier associated with a group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups and a corresponding expiration indicator;

a group controller to update the group membership file;  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date; and  
wherein the expiration indicator comprises a time.

23. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a system host comprising:

a group generator to generate membership records in a group membership file, each membership record including a member identifier associated with a group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups and a corresponding expiration indicator; and

a transmitter to transmit the group membership file; and  
a client comprising:

a receiver to receive messages and the group membership file;

a memory to store an apparatus identification;

a membership file to store first group identifier associated with a first group, the apparatus identification and an associated first expiration indicator;

a clock to output a current time; [[and]]

a receiver controller coupled to the receiver, the memory, the membership file, and the clock, said receiver controller operative to update the membership file in response to one of the group membership file and the current time; and

wherein the first expiration indicator comprises a time.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the receiver controller is operative to compare the first expiration indicator to the current time and to delete the first group identifier and the first expiration indicator in response to the first expiration indicator exceeding or matching the current time.